



THE RICE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Rice County, Minnesota

408 Division Street, Northfield, MN 55057

Website: ricecogs.blogspot.com

2018 Spring

The Rice County Genealogical Society (RCGS) **usually** meets at 2:00 on the 3rd Tuesday of the month alternating location between the Rice County Historical Society Museum (RCHS), 1814 NW 2nd Avenue, in Faribault and various locations in Northfield. NOTE: we are adding meetings over the summer. Meetings may be canceled due to inclement weather.

MEETING DATES 2018 tentative: refer to website ricecogs.blogspot.com for updates.

~~May 15, 2018~~ changed to the Prairieville Cemetery Memorial Service May 20; see ↓ and p. 2

May 20, 2018 **Sunday**.....**Prairieville Cemetery**..... 2:00 Memorial Service Old Prairieville Cemetery
Highway 60, 2.5 miles east of Faribault

June 19, 2018.....Northfield Library..... 2:00 Topic: Northfield History Collaborative
Guest speaker: Stephanie Hess

July 18, 2018 **Wednesday**... Faribault RCHS ~noon-8:00 Presence at the Rice County Fair, RCGS volunteers

August 21, 2018.....**Christdala Church**..... 2:00 Tour: of Christdala Church: John and Jan Dalby
Millersburg
Located 2 miles west of Millersburg on
County Rd 1 (4795 Millersburg Blvd)

September 18, 2018.....Northfield Library..... 2:00 Topic: U of MN John R. Borchert Map Library
Guest speaker:

October 16, 2018.....Faribault RCHS..... 2:00 Topic: Dalby database John Dalby

November 20, 2018.....**St Olaf Library**..... 2:00 Tour: St. Olaf College Rolvaag Library for
Northfield
Norwegian research

December 18, 2018.....Location and time to be determined Annual December Lunch &
Election of Officers

OFFICERS:

President: Mary Zabel <select2@kmwb.net>

Program Co-Chair: Sue Garwood <sgarwood@rhistory.org>

Kathy Ness <kjl.ness@gmail.com> also website

Treasurer: Noreen Giefer <nmking@hotmail.com>

Newsletter: Harriet Berg <hgbergmn@ix.netcom.com>

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old prairieville cemetery



MEMORIAL SERVICE SET FOR SUNDAY MAY 20 AT 2 PM.

Once again Friends of Old Prairieville Cemetery will gather to honor those buried in the Old Prairieville Cemetery Sunday May 20, 2018 at 2 PM. The American Legion Post 43 will again give the 3 gun salute to honor War of 1812 Veteran Isaac Barrick, Civil War Veteran Edward Cosert.

Plans for the new program include a talk by Mary Zabel on some of those buried in the cemetery. Visitors will have the opportunity to follow a guided tour of the cemetery led by Sue Lloyd. Tim Lloyd will talk about the new sign purchased through a grant from the Minnesota Historical Society's Legacy program.

Note: Mary is ordering 60 chairs. Park on the grass if it is dry otherwise along the highway.

This card file cabinet belonged to the RCGS. It was no longer needed and due to space limitations at NHS it was moved to the home of Jan and John Dalby. They had no use for it and have found a new home for it at the Rice County Historical Society Museum where it will be used to store small archive items.



Treasurers are True Treasurers When They are Shared

Grandma's Beautiful Stemware

by Mary Zabel

Back in the early 1950s, I remember my summer vacation at my Grandmother's. My Grandparents lived on a 16-acre plot just out of Owatonna but yet just inside the city limits. They had acquired this farm from my Grandmother's parents in 1917. There was a barn, two sheds, small garage, outhouse and chicken coop which had a lovely stand of grapes that climbed the fence surrounding 1/3 of the buildings. The house was a good size, one half being two stories and the other single story with a huge living room and single bedroom. The electricity throughout was limited. The kitchen was more like just a serving kitchen with two small banks of cupboards, a single old sink and a huge wood burning stove at the north end with which she cooked in the winter but on hot days used a single electric burner. The only "running" water was from the pump jack outside the house which we used to fill the drinking water pail and to fill the stove reservoir for hot dishwater. Everything was economy of scale and resources. It was simple at best.



Grandma Victoria (Nowak) Hinchski
and granddaughter Mary (Hinchski) Zabel
behind them grandma's dog Jerry who
always protected her

Grandma would have me set the table with her F. W. Woolworth dishes but my eyes always met the treasure that lived on the top shelf of the cupboard; the beautifully engraved fine set of stemware that were never used. I never had the nerve to ask her if we could use it. The story was that it was her wedding gift from her parents who were more affluent than her. My Grandmother and Grandfather were wed in 1896 so the stemware glasses are superb antiques. What a shame to never use something so beautiful. But I loved wiping the dishes just so I could get another look at them as we had no such luxury. Well my Grandmother died in 1960 and an aunt and her husband came to live with Grandpa but there were no more opportunities for me to stay there. Grandpa died and my aunt and her husband moved, the land was sold and the house demolished to make way for a new housing addition. The stemware was gone.



Roman Hinchski and Victoria Nowak
 (1870-1968) (1879-1960)
 m. 5 Oct 1896 Steele County, Minnesota



About 10 years later, the aunt died and my other aunt was cleaning out the aunt's apartment and found a box marked Grandma's glasses. It was the beautiful stemware! My other aunt, having been raised simply now in her 80s and with no children, asked me if I wanted them. Oh yes, I babbled! Oh yes! They were now mine! Determined not to let anything happen to them, I kept them in the box up in my closet and never told anyone they were there.

Does this story have a familiar ring? Being 70 now it finally dawned on me, that I have the "treasure" and if I didn't share it with my family, they could be discarded for nuisance as the importance of stemware to the current generation is not the same as mine. After attending a presentation by our historical society director about the importance of sharing these things, I have decided I will give them to my children and niece and nephew with this story this Christmas so the stemware will stay beautiful forever.

**Sarah Arabella "Bella" (Bigelow) Goodhue
and Why She Gave Up Being an Artist**
A little treasure in our family – Harriet Berg

Sarah Arabella Bigelow was born 6 Sep 1843 in Ryegate, Vermont the daughter of John McIntosh Bigelow (1803-1891) and Mary C. Thompson (1821-1885).

She was married on 11 Aug 1871 in Ryegate, Vermont to Horace Goodhue Jr. (1842-1923).

She moved to Northfield, Minnesota where Horace was employed at Carleton College.

Bella and Horace had three children

Clarabel (1872-1943),

Ralph B. (1878-1960)

Mary K. (1881-1953).

Bella died 24 Apr 1937 in Northfield, Rice County, Minnesota.

After her death in 1937 her son Ralph and his wife Emily found a framed drawing in the old Goodhue home 309 East 2nd St., Northfield, Minnesota. To their surprise when they turned it over there was a letter to Ralph from his mother.



*"Dear Ralph Mamma made just this
one picture; but her baby boy cried for
her and so she gave up being an
artist. She thinks it belongs
to you. I wonder when you
will find this letter.*

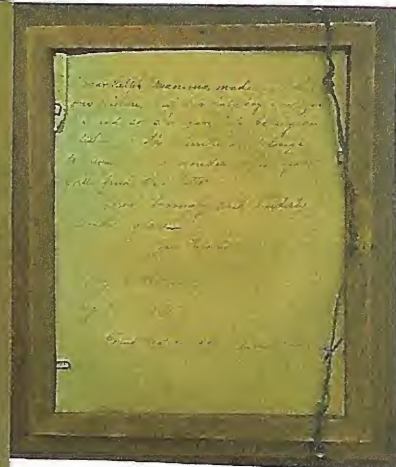
*Most lovingly and tenderly
All the years*

Your Mother.

July 10 1905 [when she wrote the letter]

Aug 31, 1878" [when Ralph was 7 months old and she gave up being an artist]

"Found Sept. 30, 1937 – In the old home." [this last line is in the handwriting of Emily Goodhue]



CYCLONE AT MORRISTOWN

from John Dalby

CYCLONE AT MORRISTOWN. Eight Killed Outright and Four seriously injured is the record of the Storm at Morristown last Monday Afternoon. **Frank Pittman one of the killed.** The dead are: FRANK PITTMAN, farmer, age 49; ELMER BROOKS, age 18 yr., laborer; OTTO GATZKE, age 19 yr., son of PAUL GATZKE; HENRY S. WAITE, farmer, and candidate for representative on the Republican ticket; JOHN ROHRER, age 27, laborer; JAKE MILLER, farmer, age 19 years; JOHN WEAVER, farmer, age 28; POOLSFOSS, was killed by flying timbers, 2 1/2 miles south of town. Injured: LOUIE PITTMAN, age 12, probably fatally, injured internally by falling brick. PAUL GATZKE, superficial and internal injuries. PORTERR WHITE, cut over temple, required 16 stitches, broken limb. FRANK WILDER, three ribs broken, cut over eye. The building, where the casualties occurred was occupied by Paul Gatzke as a saloon. There were eleven people in the saloon when the storm struck, and seven were killed outright, one the 12 year old boy of Frank Pittman will not live, the other three were all more or less injured. The wonder is that any escaped, as the building flew to pieces without an instants warning and in the pile of bricks there is probably not two that remained fastened together by the mortar. Many of the men had gathered in the saloon to get out of the rain. Frank Pittmans was the first body discovered in the debris. He had gone down to Morristown with a load of wheat and had, we understand, paid the last of a mortgage and purchased a cow. His little twelve year old boy was found near his father, he had been struck in the stomach by a failing brick and was badly injured. He was taken to a nearby house and all that skill and kindness could do, was done for him. John Rohrer was the son of Bentley Rohrer, who formerly resided three miles east of this city. He was a fine young man and well known in this city and vicinity. Henry S. Waite, was a prosperous young farmer, living a few miles east of Morristown. He had just returned from the funeral of Mr. John Gibson. He leaves a wife and five small children, his wife was formerly Miss Girtie Breed, of this city. THE STORM. When first seen the storm cloud was a few miles southeast of this place where it barely missed Mr. Brophys family, as they were coming home from the funeral. It is described, by those who saw it, as a great funnel shaped mass, with a long twisting, rope-like concern hanging nearly to the ground. It made frequent leaps toward the ground and wherever it struck took everything in its path. It traveled in a northeasterly direction, striking Mr. Olsons

farm about two and a half miles south of Morristown village. Mr. Olsons barn was totally destroyed, and Poolesfoss, his hired man was killed by flying timbers. In Morristown it again dipped down and picking up Mr. Dargavels barn carried it several rods and dropped it. A few rods farther on, with diabolical accuracy it swopped down on Gatzkes saloon, and in the fraction of a second crushed the life out of seven human beings. It again rose in the air and passed over several buildings, and about thirty rods farther on it demolished several barns. No farther damage has thus far been reported. it was a storm of terrible strength and had it remained close to the earth would have left a path of devastation equal to the New Richmond disaster a year ago. Quite a number of queer pranks of the giant twister are reported. Pittmans team was tied directly in front of the saloon, the wind carried the wagon away and stripped off the harness leaving the team standing. One man was blown across the street and landed in the telephone wires twenty feet from the ground. Notice was received here about six oclock, and Doctors Chamberlain, Rankin and Couplin immediately responded and assisted in the work of rescue. The alarm soon spread and the road between this place and Morristown was lined with teams until a late hour Monday night. The building that was destroyed gives evidence of having been very poorly constructed, the mortar being of a poor quality and sparingly used. Perhaps if the building had been stronger its unfortunate occupants might have escaped. The body of Frank Pittman was moved to Worleins undertaking rooms in this city and prepared for burial. For the third time within a year the little village of Morristown is wrapped in mourning and the earnest sympathy of our people go out to the afflicted. Fortunately the property loss was light with the exception of the brick building referred to, the only damage was barns and out buildings blown down, and now and then a roof or chimney gone.

Waterville Advance Newspaper Sep 24, 1900.

One of the saddest features of the cyclone Monday at Morristown was the death of Frank Pittman, and the injury of his little son, who at present writing is hanging between life and death. Frank was a hard worker and had a reputation for honesty that any man could be proud of. He leaves a wife and large family of young children. The funeral occurred this forenoon from the Catholic church and the remains laid to rest in the Catholic cemetery east of town.

Rice County Genealogical Society
408 Division Street
Northfield, MN 55057

Stamp

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Membership is yearly January through December

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Type of Membership _____ Individual \$10 per year

_____ Family \$12 per year

Send application with check payable to Rice County Genealogical Society

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